

Robot Assisted Laparoscopic Radical Prostatectomy

Recently a diagnosis of localised prostate cancer has been made. Various treatment options would have been discussed in detail, ranging from watchful waiting, hormone therapy, brachytherapy and surgical removal of the prostate.

Surgery can be performed in two different ways to remove the prostate. The traditional open method, which involves a large incision being made in the lower abdomen and alternatively by the recent technique, Robotic assisted Radical Prostatectomy. Robotic Surgery uses the latest in minimally invasive surgical techniques, where several tiny incisions are made to insert the telescopic instruments used to remove the prostate.

Steps of the operation in a Robotic Radical Prostatectomy:

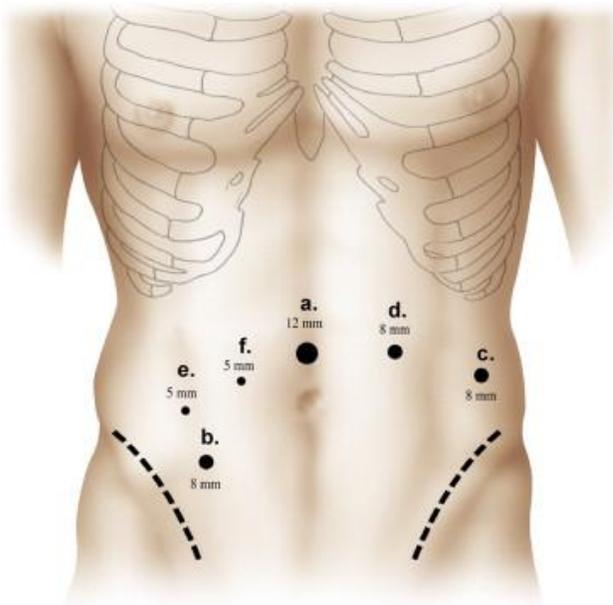
1. A full general anaesthetic will be performed. This will be discussed further with your anaesthetist.
2. The surgery will commence by making small incisions (5-10mm) in the lower abdomen which will allow the insertion of the telescopic instruments. A transperitoneal approach will be used.
3. The removal of the pelvic lymph nodes may be performed at this stage.
4. The prostate will be radically removed and placed into a laparoscopic bag for removal. The nerve(s) required for erections may be preserved during this stage.
5. The bladder will be anastomosed (joined back together) to the urethra and reconstructed to ensure that it is watertight.
6. The mid line skin incision may need to be increased slightly to remove the prostate within its bag.
7. A urethral catheter is inserted and will be removed in the office 5-7 days.
8. A drain placed into the operative area will be removed in 1-2 days.
9. Discharge from hospital in 1-2 days would be expected.

The advantages of the Robotic technique are due to its minimally invasive nature in combination with the increased vision achieved by the 3 dimensional view of the Robotic telescope. When compared to the traditional open retropubic radical prostatectomy the advantages can be summarised as following.

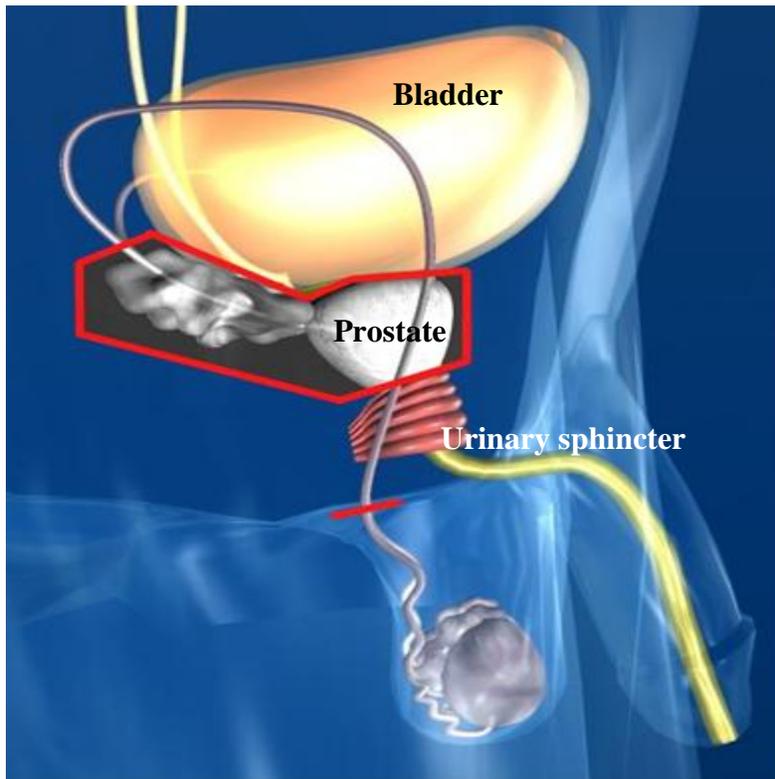
- More rapid recovery following the operation. Less stress on the body.
- Improved cosmetic results as no large incision is made.
- Less blood loss. Extremely low chance of requiring a blood transfusion (0-1%).
- Nerve sparing surgery for potency (erections).
- Improved short and long term urinary continence rates.

The Robotic operation enables the radical removal of the prostate cancer with the addition of the above benefits. The chance of maintaining potency (erections) will depend on several factors, such as; age of patient, preoperative potency status, tumour stage and the possibility of preserving one or both nerves that allow for potency.

6 trocars are inserted into the lower abdomen



The prostate and the seminal vesicles will be removed



For further information, please call Liz on 47218383.